

Annexure 1

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S REPORT
INVESTIGATION INTO ONCOLOGY SERVICES IN KWA-ZULU NATAL PROVINCE, DATED 01 NOVEMBER 2017**

BACKGROUND:

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) conducted an investigation into the provision of oncology services in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province following a complaint relating to poor provision of health care services for oncology patients in KZN.

In producing its report, the Portfolio Committee on Health considered the report of the SAHRC on 23 August 2017 and reports of the Minister of Health and KZN Department of Health on 06 September 2017.

Having considered the report of the SAHRC, the reports of the Minister of Health and the MEC for Health in KwaZulu-Natal Province, the Committee noted the following observations:

- I. That KZNDoH had instituted cost- curtailment measures due to financial pressures and the extent at which this decision has contributed to the crisis that the provincial department is facing.
- II. There is a shortage of health professionals, particularly specialists leaving the employment of KZNDoH due to unconducive working conditions.
- III. The staff requirements in relation to Addington and Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospitals was unclear.

- IV. Access to treatment for cancer patients in rural areas is a concern and the need for plans to ensure that patients in rural areas receive oncology treatment.
- V. That there seem to be senior management instability in the provincial department as key senior management positions remained vacant.
- VI. There seem to be a weakness in the national department's early warning system in monitoring and intervening in some of the challenges faced by provincial departments.
- VII. That there is a potential gap in communication between national and provincial departments and cited the mental health crisis in Gauteng as an example.
- VIII. The backlog of patients awaiting treatment is concerning.
- IX. That certain hospitals newly installed radiotherapy machines remained unutilized due to lack of staff trained to operate these machines.
- X. That the SAHRC's monitoring had been constrained because full access was denied in some of the hospitals.
- XI. The lack of SMAs for the maintenance of the oncology equipment had contributed to the collapse of oncology services in KZN.

The Portfolio Committee on Health, having made the above mentioned observations, recommends that the Minister of Health should ensure that the National Department and KwaZulu-Natal Departments of Health respond to the Committee recommendations in the table below by 31 March 2018.

ITEM NO	RESPONSIBILITY	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE BY NDOH / KZNDoh	TIME FRAME
1		KZNDoh reviews and assess the decision on cost-curtailment in ensuring that the health care service delivery is not compromised.	The minimum staff establishment will ensure that all critical posts are filled in each facility.	Ongoing
2		KZNDoh determines and document the reasons behind the departure of health professionals to enable the province to address its challenges.	The two main reasons for the departure of health professionals is the inability to fill posts due financial constraints and non-availability of medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and other tools of the trade. Filling of Oncology posts has since been accelerated. Currently 12 out of 18 oncology posts are filled whilst 6 are still vacant but have already been advertised.	Ongoing
3		KZNDoh ensures that exit interviews are conducted when health professionals resign from the department to assist in the recruitment of new health professionals.	Exit interviews are done supported by an online system. These are however not yet compulsory on the part of those exiting and as such are not fully adhered to.	Ongoing
4		KZNDoh develops and implement a plan to ensure that cancer patients in rural areas have access to cancer treatment.	Ngwelezane and Queen Nandi Hospitals, located in the northern area of Kwazulu Natal provide Oncology Services through a Service Provider, Joint Medical Holdings (Pty) Ltd. SCM processes are currently underway to enter into a 18 month contract with JMH (Pty) Ltd for the provision of oncology services to the patients in Northern KZN.	Ongoing

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5		KZNDoh capacitates and upskill staff in operating some of the oncology equipment.	This is done as part of the commissioning of equipment, induction of new staff and is done on ongoing basis as when necessary.	Ongoing
6		National and KZNDoh ensure that all critical posts are filled to ensure that existing backlogs and waiting period for care are shortened.	Posts have been advertised several times but there are no takers. The Department is now processing foreign applications.	Ongoing
7		KZNDoh ensures that all key senior management positions are filled and staff is retained to bring stability and to speedily address some of the challenges faced by the provincial department.	All Senior Management Posts have been filled.	Completed
8		KZNDoh develops and implement a comprehensive staff retention strategy.	Staff retention strategy is in place. Some of the challenges facing the Department in retaining professionals fall outside its scope e.g. school facilities; shopping facilities etc.	Ongoing
9		National and Provincial Departments strengthen and improve communication and early warning systems to detect and avert similar crises to that of KZN.	The Department meets with UKZN on a regular basis to discuss the teaching platforms and to monitor issues such as Registrar training. Meetings with the CEO's are held to monitor the training, resignations, retirements amongst others.	Ongoing
10		Progress in the implementation of interventions in KZN is continuously	Regular reports are submitted to Oversight Committees and to the SAHRC	Ongoing

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11		The South African Human Rights Commission is allowed access in public health facilities to carry out its mandate. monitored.	The South African Human Rights Commission is allowed access to public health facilities.	
12		KZNDOH ensure that SMAs are in place for all oncology machines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 suppliers were contacted and engaged in proposing for the maintenance of equipment for which they are the sole agent. • 8 Suppliers responded • We have concluded engagements with 4 of these suppliers. • 3 Completed services level agreements have been submitted to the Head of Health for approval and sign off. These are currently going through the CSCM process in order for the order to be issued. These are Phillips Healthcare, Lomaen Medical and Drager Medical. • The contract for Afica X-ray Industrial and Medical (AXIM) has been finalized and will be sent to the Head of Health in the next week. • All 4 contracts will be effective 1 April 	

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			<p>2018 and will cover various Radiology, PACS/RIS systems and Life support equipment throughout the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The remainder of the contracts are in progress and will be concluded within the next six months on an on going basis 	